

SALINGER TALKED TO FOE ON P.O.W.'S AS M'GOVERN AIDE

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Says He Detected No Change
in North Vietnam's Stand
After 2 Paris Sessions

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 16—
Senator George McGovern con-
firmed today that Pierre Salinger,
the former Presidential
press secretary, had met with
North Vietnamese negotiators
in Paris at his request to dis-
cuss the prisoner of war situ-
ation.

Mr. Salinger, who is co-chair-
man of the Citizens for McGov-
ern Committee, told of the
meetings on his return to New
York today and said in a tele-
phone interview that he had
found no change in the North
Vietnamese position that would
allow an early release of Amer-
ican prisoners.

"I met with them twice," Mr.
Salinger said, "on July 18 and
Aug. 9, and during the second
meeting they informed me that
there was no change in their
position with regard to prison-
ers of war, that the release has
to be in the context of an over-
all peace settlement as outlined
at the negotiations."

Mr. Salinger refused to say
with whom he talked, but said
that it was neither Xuan Thuy
nor Le Duc Tho, the two rank-

Kissinger Arrives in Saigon

Henry A. Kissinger, Presi-
dent Nixon's adviser for na-
tional security, arrived in
Saigon yesterday amid much
speculation about the pur-
pose of his trip. No informa-
tion was available on the
reason for the visit. Page 3.

ing members of the Hanoi dele-
gation in Paris.

Mr. Salinger also said that he
had told the North Vietnamese
that if there was any possi-
bility for them "to negotiate a
peace agreement with President
Nixon that they should do so
without regard to the American

election, that Senator McGov-
ern's desire for peace was
greater than his desire for the
issue of the Vietnam war to
continue as a central issue in
this campaign."

Mr. Salinger apparently
caught Senator McGovern by
surprise with his statements in
New York. The Senator was
campaigning in the Midwest
today and was asked about the
Salinger trip as he stepped from
an elevator in the St. Nicholas
Hotel in Springfield, Ill. Mr.
McGovern denied that he had
instructed Mr. Salinger concern-
ing such a meeting, but said
that Mr. Salinger had told him

Continued on Page 24, Column 6

Continued From Page 1, Col. 5

he might make some inquiries
of the Hanoi delegation on his
return to Paris, where he lives,
after the Democratic National
Convention.

Later, after conferring with
Mr. Salinger by telephone, Mr.
McGovern issued a statement
through his headquarters here,
saying:

"I have just conferred by
phone with Pierre Salinger with
reference to his recent visit to
Paris. Mr. Salinger had planned
to return to Paris following
the Democratic National Con-
vention and, at my request, he
met with members of the North
Vietnamese delegation in Pa-
ris.

"The only purpose of the
discussion was to determine if
any change had occurred which
would permit the return of
the prisoners prior to the end
of hostilities.

Discrepancy Is Denied

"Mr. Salinger found no
change in the publicly stated
position of Hanoi. Mr. Salinger
also made it clear that I have
repeatedly stated my convic-
tion that the end of the war
should not be delayed by a
single day because of the Amer-
ican election campaign."

The McGovern statement
raised a question about his
comment in Illinois that he had
given Mr. Salinger no instruc-
tions about the meeting.

Asked about that later, Mr.
McGovern said there was "not
the slightest discrepancy" be-
cause his first statement about
no instructions was in response
to the specific question as to
whether he had instructed Mr.
Salinger to advise the North
Vietnamese to press for a set-
tlement now.

"I would like to get our ad-
ministration to make a peaceful
settlement right now," Mr. Mc-
Govern said.

Salinger Issues Denial

The reported attitude of the
North Vietnamese on the re-
lease of prisoners, as relayed by
Mr. Salinger, appeared to con-
flict with an opinion voiced
earlier this week by Ramsey
Clark, the former Attorney
General.

Mr. Clark, just back from
Hanoi, said on Monday that he
thought that North Vietnam
would release a few American
prisoners soon.

Interviewed later by tele-
phone at his room in the
Carlisle Hotel in New York, Mr.
Salinger denied reports of state-
ments attributed to him in an
interview in Paris on radio sta-
tion Europe One last week. Mr.
Salinger had been quoted as
saying that a negotiated peace
before November "would al-
most assure him [President
Nixon.] re-election."

Mr. Salinger said he had told
the interviewer that such an
event "would help President
Nixon's re-election chances."

He did not comment about
another remark, attributed to
him in that broadcast, that the
North Vietnamese did not think
much of Senator McGovern's
chances for election this year
and that it might be in their
interests to press for a settle-
ment with the Nixon Admin-
istration before the election.

Meanwhile, as the Salinger
contacts in Paris were disclosed
Henry A. Kissinger, President
Nixon's adviser on national
Security, issued a statement to
counter implications by Mr.
McGovern that previous con-
versations between the two of
them on the Vietnam situation
indicated no need for Mr. Mc-
Govern to accept an offer of
detailed briefings.

Talks Termed Insignificant

Ronald L. Ziegler, the Presi-
dential press secretary, gave
newsmen copies of a cable from
Mr. Kissinger saying that he
had talked with Mr. McGovern
only twice in the last two years
for "a general exchange of
views."

"I think the point there is
that Dr. Kissinger really hasn't
had any significant discussions
with Senator McGovern in over
a year," Mr. Ziegler said.

Mr. McGovern, while declin-
ing President Nixon's offer for
briefings on the current situa-
tion, has appointed Paul Warn-
ke as his liaison with the Ad-
ministration to receive informa-
tion "that the White House
thinks would be useful."